

State of Alaska
FY2006 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Conservation
Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Wildlife Conservation Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

The mission of the Division of Wildlife Conservation is to conserve and enhance Alaska's wildlife and habitats and provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits.

Core Services

The Division of Wildlife Conservation is responsible for the management of Alaska's wildlife resources. The primary goals of the division are to: (1) protect, maintain, and enhance the wildlife resources of Alaska; and (2) provide for their greatest use by the people, consistent with the sustained yield principle, for the well being of the people and the economy of the state. The division engages in species management and research to achieve its goals, as well as delivering public services such as wildlife education and hunter education.

Division management programs include survey and inventory, regulatory, and enhancement projects for big game, small game, furbearer, waterfowl and wildlife species. Enhancement projects improve wildlife populations to provide for increased opportunities for people to use wildlife. Biological information, harvest data, and recommendations are presented to assist the Board of Game in making allocation decisions through the regulatory process. Recommendations are also presented to the Federal Subsistence Board to encourage a cooperative approach between state and federal resource allocation.

The division's biological research program focuses on collecting data with direct management application and provides technical assistance to other agencies and the public. The division continues to develop programs in non-game species research, school and community wildlife education, and wildlife-based economic development.

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p>A: Maintain healthy and sustainable wildlife populations in Alaska for public use and benefit.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Achieve population targets for at least 75% of big game populations for which the Board of Game (BOG) has set targets (i.e., objectives). <u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage of BOG population targets attained.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Develop and implement recovery strategies for 75% of those "species of concern" under primary division management. <u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of species for which recovery strategies are being implemented.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> 0% change in the number of species under state management designated as threatened or endangered in Alaska from the 2003 level. <u>Measure #3:</u> Percentage change in the number of new threatened or endangered species designations.</p>	<p>A1: Collect scientifically sound information on wildlife populations in Alaska.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase by 5% the collection of population, harvest, and other biological information on species of concern and/or key species about which little information exists. <u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage change in the numbers of studies initiated, underway, and completed.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Complete 90% of planned surveys on the population status and harvest of big game species, furbearers, migratory birds and marine mammals (not including any stopped by adverse weather conditions or nonavailability of suitable aircraft). <u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of planned surveys completed.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Maintain the number of active research projects at 95 to 100% or more of the previous year's totals. <u>Measure #3:</u> Number of research projects compared to those of the previous year.</p> <p>A2: Provide biological information and recommendations to the Board of Game and state</p>

	<p>advisory committees as well as to the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) and federal regional councils.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Actively participate in 100% of BOG and FSB meetings, 75% of state advisory committee meetings, and 50% of regional council meetings that affect state management. <u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage of meetings at which staff present information and offer recommendations.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Achieve a 75% adoption rate for regulatory proposals submitted to the BOG by the division. <u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of recommendations adopted.</p> <p>A3: Maintain wildlife habitat capable of sustaining robust, well-distributed populations of wildlife.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Participate actively in the management of at least 50% of state critical habitat areas, game refuges and game sanctuaries. <u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage of areas in which staff play a significant management role.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Review and evaluate at least 90% of major proposed land use projects to assess impacts on wildlife and make recommendations to minimize those impacts. <u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage of projects evaluated.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Enhance productivity of key habitats by conducting 80% of planned and feasible habitat improvement or restoration projects. <u>Measure #3:</u> Percentage of projects conducted.</p> <p>A4: Increase low or declining ungulate populations identified under the intensive management law in areas impacted by predators to provide for increased human harvest.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase ungulate populations by an average of 2% annually in areas where intensive management programs are being implemented. <u>Measure #1:</u> % change in ungulate survival.</p>
End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p>B: Maintain a wealth and diversity of opportunities for public use and enjoyment of Alaska's wildlife and optimize associated social and economic benefits.</p>	<p>B1: Maintain and enhance opportunities to hunt, trap, and view wildlife, as well as associated business enterprises such as guiding, taxidermy and nature tourism.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase sales of hunting and trapping licenses to the 3 -year average. <u>Measure #1:</u> Number of licenses sold compared with the 3-year running average.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Increase by 1% the 2001 level of adult participation in wildlife viewing. <u>Measure #2:</u> % increase in the number of adult viewers</p>

	<p>identified in the 5-year FWS survey.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Increase by 5% the information available on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities.</p> <p><u>Measure #3:</u> Quantity of information posted on the web and printed for public distribution.</p>
End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p>C: Inform and educate the Alaskan public about wildlife management issues.</p>	<p>C1: Provide opportunities for Alaskans to gain knowledge of and appreciation for Alaska's wildlife, its management, and ways to safely and ethically interact with wildlife.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase by 5% opportunities for Alaskans to learn about wildlife and wildlife management.</p> <p><u>Measure #1:</u> Percentage change in the number of forums and lectures offered. Percentage change in the number of brochures, newspaper articles, radio/TV programs, web pages, and other publications produced.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Increase by 5% the number of workshops offered to teachers in wildlife curricula.</p> <p><u>Measure #2:</u> Percentage change in the numbers of workshops offered to teachers on use of the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum and Project Wild.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Increase by 5% the number of outdoor skill development clinics offered.</p> <p><u>Measure #3:</u> Percentage change in the numbers of hunter, trapper and viewer education courses offered.</p>

Major Activities to Advance Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct population and trend count surveys on wildlife populations. • Conduct Game Management Unit area and/or species-specific research. • Conduct harvest surveys on wildlife populations. • Review proposals from the public pertaining to wildlife in regards to the regulatory process. • Collect, analyze, and provide information regarding wildlife to regulatory bodies. • Develop and present recommendations to the Board of Game. • Participate in regulatory sessions with the Board of Game. • Devise management strategies and plans regarding wildlife habitat. • Conduct field assessments regarding wildlife habitat. • Assign staff to heavily used areas to protect resources and/or public safety. • Participate in interdisciplinary permit review teams regarding wildlife habitat. • Offer biological expertise regarding wildlife habitat. • Conduct prescribed burns to enhance wildlife habitat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out habitat scarification/crushing. • Build and install nesting structures. • Conduct recruitment and survival surveys on ungulate populations. • Work with the Administration and Legislature to adopt an improved compensation package for biologists comparable to that for federal biologists. • Develop and enhance marketing strategies for the sale of hunting licenses. • Conduct hunter / trapper / viewer clinics for the general public. • Enhance web-based information systems and other publications regarding wildlife resources and opportunities. • Use the media to promote opportunities for wildlife related activities. • Sponsor lecture series and other educational forums for the public. • Development of brochures, news articles and other publications. • Conduct teacher trainings on the use of outdoor and wildlife curricula. • Sponsor outdoor skill clinics.

FY2006 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2006 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$30,396,100	Personnel:	
	Full time	177
	Part time	47
	Total	224

Performance Measure Detail

A: Result - Maintain healthy and sustainable wildlife populations in Alaska for public use and benefit.

Target #1: Achieve population targets for at least 75% of big game populations for which the Board of Game (BOG) has set targets (i.e., objectives).

Measure #1: Percentage of BOG population targets attained.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target has not yet been achieved. For 2003/04, the division has met 22 Board of Game population objectives out of a total of 45 such objectives set for deer, caribou and moose. Additional analysis is needed to determine if objectives have been met for other populations. In addition, the division has recently initiated predator management programs for eight additional populations.

Target #2: Develop and implement recovery strategies for 75% of those "species of concern" under primary division management.

Measure #2: Percentage of species for which recovery strategies are being implemented.

Analysis of results and challenges: The target was met. There are 10 wildlife species of special concern under primary or shared DWC management. Conservation action plans were recently developed for 8 of these species, including blackpoll warbler, Townsend's warbler, olive-sided flycatcher, Steller's eider, spectacled eider, northern goshawk, Arctic peregrine falcon, and American peregrine falcon. In addition, a separate Kenai brown bear management plan was created in 2000. The one species for which a plan has not been prepared is the Aleutian Canada goose. This population is no longer listed on the federal endangered species list and will be removed when the "species of special concern" list is next updated.

Target #3: 0% change in the number of species under state management designated as threatened or endangered in Alaska from the 2003 level.

Measure #3: Percentage change in the number of new threatened or endangered species designations.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target has been met. The state endangered species list includes the Eskimo curlew, short-tailed albatross, humpback whale, right whale, and blue whale. There has been no change in the state endangered species list since 1993 and no new species were added to federal lists in 2003.

A1: Strategy - Collect scientifically sound information on wildlife populations in Alaska.

Target #1: Increase by 5% the collection of population, harvest, and other biological information on species of concern and/or key species about which little information exists.

Measure #1: Percentage change in the numbers of studies initiated, underway, and completed.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target was met. In 2003/04, three key species projects were completed, 11 were ongoing, and 10 were initiated, for a total of 24. This represents a 71% increase over 2002/03's 14 projects, largely due to the availability of federal funding for new "nongame" research.

Target #2: Complete 90% of planned surveys on the population status and harvest of big game species,

furbearers, migratory birds and marine mammals (not including any stopped by adverse weather conditions or nonavailability of suitable aircraft).

Measure #2: Percentage of planned surveys completed.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target was achieved. During 2003/04, the division completed 98% of planned wildlife surveys (218 of 223) in which weather or aircraft availability was not a factor. Of the 5 not completed, 4 were due to budget or personnel shortages, and 1 was ultimately deemed unnecessary.

Target #3: Maintain the number of active research projects at 95 to 100% or more of the previous year's totals.

Measure #3: Number of research projects compared to those of the previous year.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target was achieved. During 2003/04, 28 big game research projects, 18 marine mammal program research projects, and 16 nongame research projects were conducted, for a total of 62 division research projects. The previous year, 2002/03, 26 big game, 17 marine mammal, and 13 nongame research projects were conducted, for a total of 56. The number of 2003/04 projects conducted represents a 11% increase over the prior year.

A2: Strategy - Provide biological information and recommendations to the Board of Game and state advisory committees as well as to the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) and federal regional councils.

Target #1: Actively participate in 100% of BOG and FSB meetings, 75% of state advisory committee meetings, and 50% of regional council meetings that affect state management.

Measure #1: Percentage of meetings at which staff present information and offer recommendations.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target was achieved. For 2003/04, DWC staff actively participated in all BOG meetings, all state advisory committee meetings addressing wildlife issues, all federal subsistence board meetings, and approximately 60% of federal regional council meetings.

Target #2: Achieve a 75% adoption rate for regulatory proposals submitted to the BOG by the division.

Measure #2: Percentage of recommendations adopted.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target was achieved. For the 3 spring board meetings held 2002 through 2004, of 75 total DWC proposals, 72 or 96% were adopted.

A3: Strategy - Maintain wildlife habitat capable of sustaining robust, well-distributed populations of wildlife.

Target #1: Participate actively in the management of at least 50% of state critical habitat areas, game refuges and game sanctuaries.

Measure #1: Percentage of areas in which staff play a significant management role.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target was met. Management plans have been completed for 15 of the 32 state critical habitat areas, game refuges and sanctuaries, and more are under development. For the remaining areas, management concerns were addressed by local area biologists and regional staff.

Target #2: Review and evaluate at least 90% of major proposed land use projects to assess impacts on wildlife and make recommendations to minimize those impacts.

Measure #2: Percentage of projects evaluated.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target was achieved for land use projects reviewed in house by ADF&G.

Target #3: Enhance productivity of key habitats by conducting 80% of planned and feasible habitat improvement or restoration projects.

Measure #3: Percentage of projects conducted.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target was achieved, although some projects were cancelled, including three prescribed burns that could not be conducted because either suitable conditions were not obtained or because the fire management resources needed to safely conduct the burns were not available when burning conditions were suitable.

A4: Strategy - Increase low or declining ungulate populations identified under the intensive management law in areas impacted by predators to provide for increased human harvest.

Target #1: Increase ungulate populations by an average of 2% annually in areas where intensive management programs are being implemented.

Measure #1: % change in ungulate survival.

Analysis of results and challenges: Two Intensive Management Programs (IMPs) have been implemented by DWC: one in Game Management Unit (GMU) 13 and the other in GMU 19D. There was a greater than 2% increase in the GMU 13 moose population in 2003/04 over the prior year. In 19D, there is insufficient information to know how the moose population level changed in 2003/04, although preliminary data suggest that this target may have been achieved.

B: Result - Maintain a wealth and diversity of opportunities for public use and enjoyment of Alaska's wildlife and optimize associated social and economic benefits.

B1: Strategy - Maintain and enhance opportunities to hunt, trap, and view wildlife, as well as associated business enterprises such as guiding, taxidermy and nature tourism.

Target #1: Increase sales of hunting and trapping licenses to the 3 -year average.

Measure #1: Number of licenses sold compared with the 3-year running average.

Analysis of results and challenges: This target was achieved. Over the past three years the sale of hunting and trapping licenses has increased from 117,169 in 2001 to 121,369 in 2002 to 124,346 in 2003. These totals include resident, nonresident and military licenses. The three year running average for this period of time is 120,961. License sales in 2003 represent a 2.8% increase over the three year running average.

Target #2: Increase by 1% the 2001 level of adult participation in wildlife viewing.

Measure #2: % increase in the number of adult viewers identified in the 5-year FWS survey.

Analysis of results and challenges: We are unable to evaluate this target at this time. The National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation is completed every five years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service last completed this survey in 2001. The next opportunity for obtaining such wildlife viewing information will occur in 2006.

Target #3: Increase by 5% the information available on hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Measure #3: Quantity of information posted on the web and printed for public distribution.

Analysis of results and challenges: Target achieved. Substantial new information was added to the DWC web site in 2003 and seven new publications were created using special federal funds.

C: Result - Inform and educate the Alaskan public about wildlife management issues.

C1: Strategy - Provide opportunities for Alaskans to gain knowledge of and appreciation for Alaska's wildlife, its management, and ways to safely and ethically interact with wildlife.

Target #1: Increase by 5% opportunities for Alaskans to learn about wildlife and wildlife management.

Measure #1: Percentage change in the number of forums and lectures offered. Percentage change in the number of brochures, newspaper articles, radio/TV programs, web pages, and other publications produced.

Analysis of results and challenges: The target was achieved. Wildlife-related lectures and workshops doubled from nine in 2002/03 to 18 in 2003/04. Over this same time period, the number of electronic and broadcast media opportunities dealing with wildlife and wildlife management, including weekly radio spots, monthly newspaper articles, guest presentations on radio shows, and new web pages, more than doubled. In 2003/04 there were 105 separate media presentations and articles.

Target #2: Increase by 5% the number of workshops offered to teachers in wildlife curricula.

Measure #2: Percentage change in the numbers of workshops offered to teachers on use of the Alaska Wildlife Curriculum and Project Wild.

Analysis of results and challenges: The target was achieved. In 2002/03, 15 workshops and presentations were made to 277 teachers, while in 2003/04, 24 such workshops were presented to 595 teachers. This represents more than twice as many teachers reached, and 60% more workshops offered in 2003/04 than in the prior year.

Target #3: Increase by 5% the number of outdoor skill development clinics offered.

Measure #3: Percentage change in the numbers of hunter, trapper and viewer education courses offered.

Analysis of results and challenges: The target was achieved. In 2002/03 there were 142 hunter education (HE) classes offered, with 2,175 students enrolled in basic HE classes, 665 in archery certification classes and 90 in muzzleloader courses, for a total of 2,930. This compares with 212 classes offered in 2003/04, and 2,877 students enrolled. Note that HE became mandatory in 2002 and that there was an initial "must have" surge that has since leveled off.

Very few trapping classes were offered over the past two years due to budget constraints. The Alaska Trappers Association with DWC staff assistance has filled some of the gap with a few classes in the Fairbanks area.

In 2002/03 there were 7 viewer education classes conducted, while in 2003/04 there were 12 such classes held. In 2002/03, 65 students participated in these classes, while in 2003/04, 285 students took part.

Key RDU Challenges

Three major policy issues in addition to financial issues face the Division of Wildlife Conservation for FY06.

The policy issues include: (1) meeting an increased demand for hunting opportunities from the public; (2) dealing with the increased costs and complexities of managing for a state subsistence preference and all other uses while addressing Alaskan concerns about federal intervention into management of resident wildlife; and (3) meeting demands of the public for a strong conservation education program, more wildlife viewing opportunities, and management of non-hunted species.

The financial issues include: (1) revenue and fees into the Fish & Game Fund; (2) subsidizing public shooting facilities; and (3) wildlife education and wildlife viewing programs and the loss of federal funding support for this function.

Predation by wolves and bears has a major impact on many wildlife populations in Alaska. The division will continue to work with the Board of Game to develop biologically sound and cost effective programs to regulate predator populations where necessary to improve the status of important ungulate herds. Efforts will continue to educate the public about wildlife management and how predation can affect ungulate populations.

The listing of species as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act can have great adverse economic impacts on Alaska. Division programs have been designed to provide for population recovery of listed species as well as preventing the need for additional listings. The division will continue to collect information on several species in an effort to ensure species are not unnecessarily listed under the federal act.

The division's ability to maintain healthy populations of wildlife is directly related to the ability of Alaska's land and water resources to support these populations. Loss or serious alteration of important wildlife habitats can have direct and long-term economic impacts on the state by reducing the sustainable yield of these renewable resources. Because of increasing human populations and the need for an expanded and more diversified economy, the division must work closely with development interests and other agencies. We must effectively mitigate the effects of development through active management programs to ensure adequate protection of wildlife values and continued opportunities for public use of these resources. The process can be effective only if the division can provide the latest information, techniques, and research findings to all parties involved in a rapid and efficient manner.

The federal assertion of management authorities for subsistence hunting on federal lands continues to have major impacts on the management of wildlife in Alaska. The division continues to work on development of procedures to address resource management and allocation conflicts between state and federal managers.

An overriding challenge for the division is to address funding issues for the division's programs. The only state fund source presently available to the division is the Fish and Game Fund. It is used to match federal funds through the "Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act" and to add to them to support the totality of division wildlife management programs. Revenue into the fund comes from the sale of hunting and trapping licenses to resident and non-residents. Non-residents are also required to pay tag fees for big game animals. Since the last hunting license fee increase in 1992, inflation and higher costs have substantially reduced the purchasing power of the revenue flowing into the Fish and Game Fund.

Actions that have decreased the fund balance in the Fish & Game Fund over the past decade include the following: several large capital projects authorized by the Legislature during the late 1990s to build shooting facilities; the related operating costs for public shooting facilities; expanded sharing of inter-departmental costs within state government; increased operational costs for biological field work; and a stationary population base that purchases annual licenses. These have all combined to make Fish and Game Fund revenues from the current rate structure insufficient to support the division's current programs.

Our challenge is to find new and/or enhanced revenues to enable us to complete our core mission for game management and species research. The department is putting together a package of proposals to augment the current fee structure for hunting and trapping licenses.

The division manages three public shooting facilities; the outdoor Rabbit Creek Shooting Park in Anchorage; and indoor ranges located in Fairbanks and Juneau. The Juneau range opened to the public in late 2004. Fairbanks opened in the fall of 2000. The ranges are very popular with the public as they provide a venue to promote firearm safety and teach hunting techniques to youth and adults. The facilities are built to safely permit live-fire shooting by patrons. The Alaskan population is actively involved in shooting activities for recreational hunting, subsistence hunting, and shooting sports purposes. Persons use our facilities to sharpen their skill and test their firearms in preparation for hunting expeditions. This service is critical for their personal safety as well as to improve their odds to successfully strike their target. Over 35,000 visits were recorded during 2002 and 2003 to our shooting range facilities.

Patrons of the ranges are charged a user fee, but a subsidy from the Fish & Game Fund has always been necessary to provide the staff and operating costs to maintain a public facility. The division has taken this subsidy from the regular licensing revenue in the Fish & Game Fund. Revenue from patrons is deposited into the Fish & Game Fund, but it covers less than a third of the operating costs for the ranges (the Juneau Range does not have data as it is opening for patrons during FY05). For FY06, a separate budgetary component for the Shooting Facilities appears in the Governor's Budget.

The Division uses federal funding from a FFY01 federal appropriation, Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program (WCRP), to pay for its wildlife-related education and viewing programs. This funding was derived from a one-year appropriation and the funds are expected to be exhausted shortly after August 2005. Congress replaced the WCRP appropriation with the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program in FFY02. Although SWG evolved from the WCRP appropriation, the purposes to which the funding can be used are different. SWG is not available to support projects such as the promotion and management of wildlife viewing opportunities.

The education program provides information to school children and other members of the public about Alaska's wildlife resources that helps them make informed decision about wildlife and understand how wildlife is used and why wildlife management is important. Education is an integral part of our wildlife management program that helps to increase compliance with regulations and fosters a stronger wildlife stewardship ethic among Alaskans.

The popular wildlife viewing program was developed in response to demand from the 78% of Alaskans who say they want to know more about where and how to view wildlife. Wildlife viewing is an important economic asset in Alaska, as most of the 1.4 million visitors who come here annually report doing so in large measure to view wildlife. The division's program seeks to maximize the economic benefits Alaska and Alaskan businesses derive from visitors' interest in wildlife viewing.

Without a new source of interim funding, these two popular and important programs will be eliminated and six staff positions may be reduced.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2006

If new or enhanced revenue sources to the Fish and Game Fund are not developed, there will be a significant decline in services provided by the division. Wildlife survey and inventory activities, wildlife research projects, public services, regulatory activities, and other core functions of the division are funded with a combination of federal funds through the "Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act" and the state managed Fish and Game Fund. Without a new source of revenue to compensate for increased costs and the effects of inflation since 1992 the division must reduce expenditures in order to maintain a balance in the wildlife portion of the Fish and Game Fund. The effect will be to downsize the division, including laying off experienced and highly skilled wildlife professionals, closure of some of the division's 22 area offices, and a significant decline in the coverage and intensity of wildlife surveys, which form the most basic foundation for allocation of wildlife populations to hunters.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2004

In its effort to conserve and enhance wildlife and provide for a wide range of uses for the greatest benefit of people, the division continued to concentrate on biological data collection, public services, planning, and habitat manipulation. The following were among the most notable accomplishments during FY2004:

- Provided opportunities to over 130,000 people to participate in hunting and trapping in Alaska. License and tag sales generated nearly \$8 million in revenue to the Fish and Game Fund.
- Incorporated priorities identified in the division's strategic plan into OMB results-based planning program.
- Completed federal aid research projects during FY04 (Title & Federal Aid project number noted):
 - Analysis and publication of deer research data in Southeast Alaska (2.12)
 - Preparation of manuscripts on marten ecology in Southeast Alaska (7.20)
 - Kuiu Island Black Bears: population estimation (17.7)
 - Utilizing harvest data to improve assessment of brown bear population management (4.33)
 - Furbearer management technique development (7.19)
- Completed State Wildlife Grant projects during FY04:
 - Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge: Conservation, Research, Management and Plan Revision (T-1-3)
- Completed Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program projects during FY04
 - Program planning and development (R-1-1, project 1)
 - Nongame partnership agreements (R-1-4, project 2)
 - Amphibian monitoring in Southeast Alaska through educational partnerships (R-1-4, proj. 4)
 - Viewing access and interpretative signs (R-1-5, proj. 2)
 - Chilkoot River corridor (R-1-5, proj. 3)
 - Sanctuary management (R-1-5, proj. 9)
 - Cottonwood Creek bridge (R-1-6, proj 1)
 - Potter Marsh boardwalk (R-1-7, proj. 1)
 - Brown bear viewing and conservation planning (RT-1-1, proj 1)
- Continued line-transect surveys to generate bear population estimates for Units 13A and 13B (Nelchina Basin) an area of intensive brown bear management during the past several years.

- Conducted hunting clinics and classes in 38 communities around the state, certifying 2,877 total students; 1,923 basic hunter education, 753 bowhunter, and 201 muzzleloader students. We trained 74 volunteer instructors at regional workshops in Anchorage, Bethel, Palmer, Soldotna, Fairbanks, and Juneau
- Enhanced the division's outreach to schools and community groups, supporting the work of division managers by better informing the public about wildlife management issues and challenges.
- Improved wildlife viewing infrastructure at popular state game refuges and sanctuaries and partnered with businesses and communities to provide better information to the growing segment of the population interested in wildlife viewing. Program focuses on avoiding and minimizing impacts of viewing activities upon wildlife and to hunting.
- Continued work with the Wolverine Creek Management Committee to review management objectives, develop and implement visitor guidelines to ensure positive interactions between bears, anglers, and bear-viewing interests.
- Conducted surveys of Tule white-fronted geese in the Susitna Valley and production of dusky Canada geese on the Copper River Delta; both populations are diminished and subject of cooperative management emphasis among Pacific Flyway states.
- Continued implementation of the Fortymile Caribou Herd Recovery Plan, under which we saw a second straight year of migration of a significant number of animals to traditional winter ranges in the Yukon.
- Continued to develop a division nongame wildlife program and preparation of a Statewide Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan as required by federal State Wildlife Grant legislation.

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**Wildlife Conservation
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2004 Actuals				FY2005 Management Plan				FY2006 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures												
None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Wildlife Conservation	0.0	8,527.7	8,269.6	16,797.3	0.0	9,424.4	9,648.8	19,073.2	385.5	9,424.4	8,663.1	18,473.0
WCRP	0.0	2,344.8	863.9	3,208.7	0.0	4,596.8	1,075.9	5,672.7	17.1	4,007.5	984.8	5,009.4
W.C. Special Projects	0.0	3,910.0	1,231.6	5,141.6	0.0	4,709.0	1,473.4	6,182.4	22.0	4,775.6	1,480.0	6,277.6
Shooting Facilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	636.1	636.1
Assert/Protect State's Rights	0.0	0.0	444.6	444.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Totals	0.0	14,782.5	10,809.7	25,592.2	0.0	18,730.2	12,198.1	30,928.3	424.6	18,207.5	11,764.0	30,396.1

Wildlife Conservation
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2005 Management Plan to FY2006 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2005 Management Plan	0.0	18,730.2	12,198.1	30,928.3
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Wildlife Conservation	385.5	0.0	-636.1	-250.6
-WCRP	17.1	-589.3	0.0	-572.2
-W.C. Special Projects	22.0	66.6	6.6	95.2
-Shooting Facilities	0.0	0.0	636.1	636.1
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Wildlife Conservation	0.0	0.0	-349.6	-349.6
-WCRP	0.0	0.0	-91.1	-91.1
FY2006 Governor	424.6	18,207.5	11,764.0	30,396.1